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BOMBAY ACT NO. 1 OF 1892.¹

[11th August, 1892.]

An Act to prohibit the practice of inoculation and to make the vaccination of Children in certain portions of the Bombay Presidency compulsory.

WHEREAS it is expedient to prohibit the practice of inoculation and to make compulsory the vaccination of children in certain portions of the Presidency of Bombay, and to remove doubts as to the legality of compulsory vaccination in the case of convicts and others confined in criminal jails, reformatories and lunatic asylums in the said presidency; It is enacted as follows:—

Preliminary.

Short title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Bombay District Vaccination Act, 1892.

¹ For Statement of Objects and Reasons, see Bombay Government Gazette, 1891, Pt. V, p. 80; for Report of Select Committee, see *ibid*, 1892, p. 3; and for Proceedings in Council, see *ibid*, 1892, pp. 18, 29, 40, 61 and 63.

2. (1) Section 33 extends to the whole of the Presidency of Bombay, and shall come into force at once. Extent and commencement

(2) The rest of the Act—

(a) extends to the whole of the Presidency of Bombay, except—

the city of Bombay, and
the town of Karachi; and

(b) shall come into force in each ¹ local area within its extent on such day as the Governor in Council by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette may direct.

(3) Every such notification shall specify the local area to which it relates—

(a) by name if such area is a territorial sub-division or area with a specific name and defined limits, or

(b) by defining its limits in any other case.

(4) Except when an epidemic of small-pox exists or is apprehended, notice of the intention of Government to introduce the Act as aforesaid on a date specified shall be given in the Bombay Government Gazette at least one month before such notification is issued, and Government shall receive and consider such suggestions and objections as may be submitted to Government by persons interested, not later than a week before the date specified as aforesaid.

3. The Governor in Council may at any time by notification withdraw the Act from operation, or, for such period as he deems fit, suspend its operation, in any local area in which it may have been brought into force under section 2, sub-section (2), or in any part of such area. Power to suspend or withdraw Act.

4. In this Act, unless there be something repugnant in the subject or context, — Interpretation-clause.

(a) “parent” means, in the case of a legitimate child, the father or the mother, and, in the case of an illegitimate child, the mother only :

(b) “guardian” means any person to whom the care, nurture or custody of any child falls by law or by natural right or recognised usage, or who has accepted or assumed the care, nurture or custody of any child or to whom the care or custody of any child has been entrusted by any authority lawfully authorized in that behalf :

¹ For notifications applying the Act to local areas, see Bombay Local Rules and Orders.

- (c) "public vaccinator" means any vaccinator appointed under this Act and includes any deputy duly authorized to act for such public vaccinator :
- (d) "medical practitioner" means any person duly qualified by a diploma, degree or license to practise in medicine or surgery or specially licensed by the Governor in Council to practise vaccination and grant certificates under the provisions of this Act :
- (e) "unprotected child" means a child who has not been protected from small-pox by having been successfully vaccinated, or who has not been certified under section 12 to have already had small-pox or to be insusceptible of vaccination :
- (f) "animal-lymph" means vaccine taken from the calf of a cow or buffalo :
- (g) "vaccination-area" means a local area in which the Governor in Council has by notification declared this Act to be, and the Act is, in force :
- (h) "vaccination-circle" or "circle" means one of the circles into which a vaccination-area is sub-divided under this Act :
- (i) "Sanitary Commissioner" means the Sanitary Commissioner for the Presidency of Bombay or any officer whom the Governor in Council from time to time directs to exercise or perform all or any of the powers or duties of a Sanitary Commissioner under this Act :
- (j) "Registrar of births" means any officer or other person whose duty it is,—
- (a) under any law for the time being in force other than the¹ Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act, 1886, or VI of 1886.
- (b) under any bye-law or rule having the force of law, to register births :
- (k) "register" and "registration" refer to registration in pursuance of any such law, bye-law or rule as aforesaid.

Establishment.

Vaccination-circles.

5. (1) Subject to such rules and orders as may from time to time be made by Government, every vaccination-area shall, with the concurrence of the Commissioner, be divided by the Sanitary Commissioner into such and

¹General Acts, Vol. III.

so many circles for the performance of vaccination, as he shall from time to time deem fit.

(2) The Sanitary Commissioner shall appoint a public vaccinator for each vaccination-circle, and shall, with the concurrence of the Commissioner, appoint such places in each such circle as he shall from time to time deem fit to be stations for the performance of vaccination. Such stations shall be called public vaccine-stations.

(3) Every public vaccinator shall be removable from office by the Sanitary Commissioner.

(4) The limits of the vaccination-circles made, and the positions of the public vaccine-stations fixed, under sub-sections (1) and (2), and the days and hours of the public vaccinator's attendance at each station, shall be published from time to time in such manner as shall be directed in rules to be framed under section 32.

6. Every public vaccinator, unless specially permitted by the Sanitary Commissioner to reside elsewhere, shall reside within the circle for which he is appointed, and shall cause his name, with the addition of the words "Public Vaccinator for the vaccination-circle of * *," to be posted up in English and in the vernacular of the district in some conspicuous place on or near the outer door of his dwelling-house, and of every public vaccine-station in his circle.

7. No person shall be appointed a public vaccinator, or act as a deputy for a public vaccinator, who shall not possess a certificate of qualification signed by the Sanitary Commissioner.

8. (1) In each vaccination-area a Superintendent of Vaccination shall be appointed by Government, and, subject to the orders of the Sanitary Commissioner, shall have a general control over all the proceedings of the public vaccinators within that area, and shall perform such duties, in addition to those prescribed by this Act, as shall be required by Government.

(2) Each Superintendent shall have, if necessary, one or more assistants as Government may from time to time direct.

Vaccination.

9. (1) Subject to the provision contained in clause (a) of sub-section (3), section 14, it shall be the duty of the parent, or, in the case of a child in the care of a guardian, of the guardian of every child such as is mentioned in section (2), within the period prescribed in respect thereof in the said sub-section, to take it or cause it to be taken to a public vaccinator to

be vaccinated, or to cause it to be vaccinated by a public vaccinator or by some medical practitioner.

Within what period to be performed : (2) The duty imposed by sub-section (1) shall be performed in the under-mentioned cases within the periods hereinbelow respectively specified, that is to say—

in the case of—

in case of child born within vaccination-area, in case of unprotected child brought within vaccination-area,

- (a) a child born within the limits of a vaccination-area—within twelve months after its birth ;
- (b) an unprotected child brought to reside, whether temporarily or permanently, within the said limits,—
 - (i) if the child is less than nine months old—within twelve months after its birth ;
 - (ii) if the child is nine months or more than nine months, but less than fourteen years old—within three months of its being brought within the said limits ;

in case of child living within vaccination-area when Act comes into force therein.

- (c) an unprotected child living within the said limits at the date when this Act comes into force therein,—
 - (i) if the child at such date is more than six months, but less than fourteen years old—within six months from the date of the Act coming into force in such area ;
 - (ii) if the child at such date is less than six months old—within twelve months from the date of its birth.

Public vaccinator bound to vaccinate all children brought to him.

(3) The public vaccinator to whom any such child, or to whom any child under the age of fourteen years, is brought for vaccination, is hereby required, with all reasonable despatch, subject to the conditions hereinafter mentioned, to vaccinate the child.

Inspection.

10. (1) At an appointed hour upon the same day in the following week after vaccination shall have been performed by a public vaccinator or a medical practitioner, or on any earlier or later day, if the public vaccinator or medical practitioner so desires, the parent or guardian shall again take the child, or cause it to be taken, to the public vaccinator, or to the medical practitioner by whom the operation was performed, that he may inspect it and ascertain the result of the operation.

Re-vaccination.

(2) In the event of the vaccination being wholly or partly unsuccessful such parent or guardian shall, if the public vaccinator or medical practitioner so direct, cause the child to be forthwith again vaccinated and subsequently inspected as on the previous occasion.

11. (1) If any public vaccinator or medical practitioner shall be of opinion that any child is not in a fit state to be vaccinated, he shall forthwith deliver to the parent or guardian of such child a certificate under his hand, according to the form of Schedule A, or to the like effect, that the child is then in a state unfit for vaccination.

If child be unfit for vaccination, certificate in form A to be given.

(2) The said certificate shall remain in force for two months only, but shall be renewable for successive periods of two months, until a public vaccinator or medical practitioner shall deem the child to be in a fit state for vaccination, when the child shall, with all reasonable despatch, be vaccinated, and a certificate of successful vaccination given, in the form of Schedule C, according to the provisions of section 13, if warranted by the result.

Certificate to remain in force for two months, but shall be renewable.

(3) At or before the end of each successive period the parent or guardian shall take or cause the child to be taken to some public vaccinator or medical practitioner, who shall then examine the child and give a fresh certificate according to the said Form A, so long as he deems requisite under the circumstances of the case.

When successive postponement certificates are to be granted.

12. If any public vaccinator or medical practitioner shall find that a child whom he has three times unsuccessfully vaccinated is insusceptible of successful vaccination, or that a child brought to him for vaccination has already had the small-pox, he shall deliver to the parent or guardian of such child a certificate under his hand, according to the form of Schedule B, or to the like effect, and the parent or guardian shall thenceforth not be required to cause the child to be vaccinated.

Provision for giving certificates of insusceptibility to successful vaccination.

13. Every public vaccinator or medical practitioner who shall have performed the operation of vaccination upon any child, and shall have ascertained that the same has been successful, shall deliver to the parent or guardian of such child a certificate, according to the form of Schedule C, or to the like effect, certifying that the said child has been successfully vaccinated.

Provision for giving certificates of successful vaccination.

14. (1) Except as is in sub-section (2) otherwise provided, the vaccination of a child under the provisions of this Act must, as the parent or guardian of the child may require, be performed with animal-lymph or with lymph taken from a human being.

Vaccination must ordinarily be performed with that kind of lymph which the parent or guardian of the child may require.

(2) It shall at any time be lawful for the Governor in Council, on its being shown to his satisfaction that animal-lymph is not procurable in any vaccination-area without dangerous delay, to direct, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette,—

(a) that, during such period as he may deem fit to appoint, the vaccination of children within such vaccination-area may

- without the assent of the parents or guardian of such children, be performed with lymph taken from a human being ;

- (b) that the public vaccinator or medical practitioner to whom, at any time during the said period, a vaccinated child is brought under the provisions of section 10 for inspection, may, if he sees fit, take from such child lymph for the performance of other vaccinations in such manner as shall not be injurious to such
 - child.

(3) The operation of any such notification shall be subject to the following provisos, namely :—

- (a) that if the period prescribed by section 9 for the vaccination of an unprotected child will expire while such notification is in force, the parent or guardian of such child may give written notice to a public vaccinator, before the expiry of the said period, of his desire to arrange privately for the effectual vaccination of the child in conformity with the provisions of this Act, and thereupon the public vaccinator shall for the said purpose allow an extension of the said period for such times, not exceeding one month, as he deems reasonable ;
- (b) that lymph shall not be taken from any child who does not appear to be in good health and free from taint of a disease transmissible by vaccination, or whose parents are known to the public vaccinator or medical practitioner to have suffered or to be suffering from phthisis, leprosy or syphilis.

(4) Whenever the Governor in Council shall publish such a notification as aforesaid, he shall also frame and notify such regulations for the administration of the provisions thereby brought into force as shall appear necessary, in order to prevent the application of the said provisions from being attended with oppression or needless offence. These regulations shall include such rules as to the sources from which lymph is to be obtained, and the means by which it is to be preserved pure, as shall appear necessary, in order to satisfy reasonable scruples on the part of persons to be vaccinated or the parents or guardians of such persons.

No fee to be charged for vaccination at a public vaccine-station or for certificates.
Proviso.

15. (1) No fee or remuneration shall be charged by any public vaccinator to the parent or guardian of any child for any such certificate as aforesaid, nor for any vaccination done by him in pursuance of this Act at a public vaccine-station.

(2) But it shall be lawful for a public vaccinator to accept, for vaccinating a child, by request of the parent or guardian, elsewhere than at a public

vaccine-station, a fee not exceeding such maximum as the Governor in Council may, by rule or order in this behalf, prescribe.

Registration.

16. On the registration in a vaccination-area of the birth of any child, the Registrar of births shall deliver to the person giving information of such birth a printed notice in the form of Schedule D, or to the like effect, and such notice shall have attached thereto the several forms of certificates prescribed by this Act.

17. Every public vaccinator or medical practitioner who gives to any parent or guardian a certificate in any of the forms of Schedules A, B and C shall, if possible, ascertain whether the birth of the child to which the certificate relates has been registered in any place situate within a vaccination-area or in the city of Bombay, or in the town of Karachi. If he ascertains that it has been so registered he shall, within twenty-one days of giving the certificate, transmit a duplicate thereof to the Registrar of births of the said place; in every other case he shall, within the said period, transmit a duplicate of the said certificate to the Registrar of births (if any) of the place in which the child was vaccinated or presented for vaccination.

18. Every Registrar of births in a vaccination-area shall keep a book, in such form as may from time to time be prescribed under section 30, in which he shall enter minutes of the notices of vaccination given by him as herein required, and shall also register the duplicates of certificates transmitted to him as herein provided.

19. He shall also prepare and keep a duplicate of any register of births which it is his duty to keep, with such columns added thereto as shall from time to time be prescribed under section 30, in which he shall record the date of every duplicate certificate, in the form of Schedule B or Schedule C, received by him concerning any child whose birth he has registered, and make an entry to the effect that the child has been vaccinated, or is insusceptible of vaccination, or has already had small-pox, as the case may be.

20. He shall also keep a register of postponed vaccinations in the form of Schedule E, in which he shall record the name of every child concerning whom he receives a duplicate certificate in the form of Schedule A, together with the date of such duplicate certificate, and of each such successive duplicate certificate, if he receives more than one, and shall show the number and year of the entry, if any, in the Register of births in which such child's birth has been registered.

Transmission
of returns to
Superintend-
ent.

21. Every Registrar of births in a vaccination-area shall transmit, on the first of every month, to the Superintendent of Vaccination a return, in such form as may from time to time be prescribed under section 30, of all cases in which duplicate certificates have not been duly received by him in pursuance of the provisions of this Act during the last preceding month.

Prosecutions and Offences.

22. Whoever—

Penalty for
inoculating,

(a) produces, or attempts to produce in any person, by inoculation with variolous matter or by wilful exposure to variolous matter or to anything impregnated therewith, or who wilfully by any other means produces the disease of small-pox in any person, or

for entering
a vaccina-
tion-area
after inocula-
tion,

(b) being above the age of fourteen years and having been inoculated with small-pox in a place in which this Act is not for the time being in force, shall afterwards enter a vaccination-area before the expiration of forty days from the date of such inoculation, or without a certificate from a medical practitioner that such person is no longer likely to cause contagion, or

for bringing
person
inoculated
into such
area.

(c) having the charge, custody or control of any person so inoculated, shall, within such period or without such certificate as aforesaid, knowingly bring such person into, or permit such person to enter, a vaccination-area,

shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees, or with both.

Magistrate
may make
an order for
the vaccina-
tion of any
unprotected
child under
fourteen
years.

23. (1) If a Superintendent of Vaccination shall give information in writing to a Magistrate that he has reason to believe that any child within a vaccination-area, under the age of fourteen years, is an unprotected child, and that he has given notice to the parent or guardian of such child to procure its being vaccinated, and that the said notice has been disregarded, such Magistrate may summon such parent or guardian to appear with the child before him, and, if the Magistrate shall find, after such examination, as he shall deem necessary, that the child is an unprotected child, he may make an order directing such child to be vaccinated within a certain time not exceeding two months.

Penalty for
disobedience
of such order.

(2) If, at the expiration of such time, the child shall not have been vaccinated, or shall not be shown to be then unfit to be vaccinated, or to be insusceptible of vaccination, the person upon whom such order shall have

been made shall, unless he can show to the Magistrate some reasonable ground for his omission to carry the order into effect, be punished with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

(3) Provided that, if the Magistrate shall be of opinion that the person is improperly brought before him, and shall refuse to make an order for the vaccination of the child, he may order the informant to pay to such person such sum of money as he shall consider a fair compensation for his expenses and loss of time in attending before the Magistrate.

Proviso for costs to person improperly summoned.

24. If any parent or guardian intentionally omits to produce a child whom he has been summoned to produce under the last preceding section, he shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Penalty for not producing child.

25. Whoever, in contravention of this Act,—

- (a) neglects, without reasonable excuse, to take or cause a child to be taken to be vaccinated, or after vaccination to be inspected, or
- (b) at any time, during the period for which any notification made under section 14 is in force, prevents any public vaccinator from taking lymph from any child whom he has vaccinated, or
- (c) neglects to fill up, sign and give to the parent or guardian of any child any certificate which such parent or guardian is entitled to receive from him, or to transmit a duplicate of the same to the Registrar of births,

Penalty for neglect to take child to be vaccinated.

shall be punished for each such offence with fine which may extend to fifty rupees.

26. Whoever wilfully signs, or makes or procures the signing or making of, a false certificate or duplicate certificate under this Act shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both.

Penalty for making or signing false certificate.

27. If any public vaccinator accepts, or obtains, or agrees to accept, or attempts to obtain, from any person any fee, or remuneration, contrary to the provisions of section 15, he shall be deemed to have committed an offence punishable under section 161 of the ¹ Indian Penal Code.

Penalty for accepting illegal fee or remuneration.

28. All offences under this Act shall be cognizable by a Magistrate of the first or second class, but no complaint of any such offence shall be entertained

Cognizance of offences under the Act.

unless the prosecution be instituted by order of, or under authority from, a Magistrate of a district or of a sub-division, or of a Superintendent of Vaccination.

Prosecution
for neglect.

29. In any prosecution for neglect to procure the vaccination of a child, it shall not be necessary in support thereof to prove that the defendant had received notice from a Registrar of births, or any other officer, of the requirements of the law in this respect; but, if the defendant produce any certificate under section 12 or 13, or the duplicate of the register of births or the register of postponed vaccinations kept by any Registrar of births as hereinbefore provided, in which such certificate shall be duly entered, the same shall be a sufficient defence for him, except in regard to the certificate according to the form of Schedule A, when the time specified therein for the postponement of the vaccination shall have expired before the time when the information shall have been laid.

Supplemental.

Books and
forms.

30. The Sanitary Commissioner shall frame and provide appropriate books and forms for the use of the public vaccinators, and also such forms as shall be required for the signature of medical practitioners under the provisions of this Act, and he shall also transmit to the Registrars of births such books and forms as are required by them under the provisions of this Act.

Annual re-
turn to be
made of the
number of
children
vaccinated,
etc.

31. It shall be the duty of every Registrar of births in a vaccination area to show in any annual general abstract of births prepared by him the number of children successfully vaccinated, the number whose vaccination has been postponed, and the number certified to be insusceptible of successful vaccination during the year.

Sanitary
Commissioner
to make
rules.

32. The Sanitary Commissioner may, with the sanction of the Governor in Council, from time to time make rules¹ or issue orders consistent with this Act—

- (a) providing for the appointment of deputies of public vaccinators when necessary;
- (b) determining the qualifications to be required of public vaccinators or their deputies, and regulating the grant of certificates of qualification under section 7;
- (c) for the guidance of public vaccinators and others in all other matters connected with the working of this Act.

¹ For rules made under cl. (c), see Bombay Local Rules and Orders.

All such rules or orders shall be published in the Bombay Government Gazette.

33. (1) Subject to such rules as the Inspector-General of Prisons with Vaccination the sanction of Government may make in this behalf, and to such exemptions ^{of convicts and others in} as Government may from time to time, by either a general or a special order ^{jails, etc.} authorize, the operation of vaccination shall be performed on every person confined in any of the cases hereinafter mentioned, whatever the age or sex of such person may be, and whether such person consent to undergo such operation or not; that is to say, in the case of every person in respect of whom—

(a) imprisonment for more than one month or transportation has been awarded as part of the substantive sentence of a Criminal Court, or

(b) a Criminal Court has directed imprisonment, in default of payment of fine for a term which, if the fine be not sooner paid, will exceed one month, or

(c) a Court has directed imprisonment for failure to give security for good behaviour for a term which, if security be not sooner given, will exceed one month, or

(d) an order has been passed by Government under either section 466 or section 471 of the ¹ Criminal Procedure Code, 1882, for his confinement as a lunatic.

X. of 1882.

(2) [*Rep. Act XVI of 1895.*]

SCHEDULE A.

(See section 11.)

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that, in my opinion,* * *, the child of * * * *, resident at * *, in the vaccination-area of * *, is not now in a fit and proper state to be vaccinated, and I do hereby postpone the vaccination for the period of two months from this date.

Dated this * * day of * * 18 * *.

(Signature of Medical Practitioner
or Public Vaccinator.)

¹ See now the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898), General Acts, Vol. V,